गया है।

1995 के प्रारम्भ में फिजी की सरकर द्वारा गठित संविधान समीक्षा आयोग ने 6 सितम्बर, 1996 को फिजी के राष्ट्रपति को अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है। हमारा मानना है कि इस रिपोर्ट में फिजी को साम्प्रदायिक राजनीति से समान मताधिकार की ओर ले जाने के लिए कुछ महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनों का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। हमें यह बताया गया है कि इस रिपोर्ट पर चुनी हुई एक 25 सदस्यीय संयुक्त संसदीय समिति विचार करेगी जो जुलाई, 1997 तक संसद में अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर देगी।

भारत सरकार को यह उम्मीद है कि समीक्षा आयोग द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशें एक ऐसी संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त करेंगी जो भारतीय मूल के फिजी राष्ट्रिकों सहित फिजी के सभी राष्ट्रिकों को स्वीकार्य हो। हम संवैधानिक सुधारों की उस प्रक्रिया को समझ रहे हैं जो आरम्भ हो चुकी है और यह आशा करते हैं कि आयोग की सिफारिशों का कार्यान्वयन एक ऐसी रीति से किया जाएगा जिससे भारतीय मूल के फिजी लोगों के आकांक्षाओं की भी पूर्ति होगी।

भारत सरकार भारतीय मूल के फिजी राष्ट्रिकों के खिलाफ जातीय भेदभाव के मसले को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय अर्थात् राष्ट्र मण्डल शिखर सम्मेलनों, संयुक्तराष्ट्र महासभा के सत्रों, संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार आयोग और अन्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर उजागर करने के लिए बराबर कार्रवाई करती रही है। आस्ट्रेलिया के विदेश मंत्री, अलेक्जेंडर डाउनर की अक्तूबर, 1996 की हाल की यात्रा के दौरान, हमने यह उम्मीद जताई है कि आस्ट्रेलिया फिजी सरकार और प्रमुखों की परिषद् पर अपने प्रभाव का इस्तेमाल करे ताकि विदेश के लिए सच्चे अर्थों में गैर-जातिगत भेद-भाव वाला संविधान स्वीकार कर सकें।

Waiting List of Phones in Ludhiana, Punjab

1259. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are in the waiting list for telephones in Ludhiana district of Punjab as on 30th October, 1996;

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of persons who are in the waiting list for telephones in the District Ludhiana of Punjab as on 30th October, 1996 is 60023.

(b) The following exchanges are proposed to be commissioned during 1996-97, to clear about 50% of the Waiting List.

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Type of System	Capacity
1.	Ludhiana	FETEX-150	40k
2.	-do-	OCB-283	30k
3.	-do-	NEC	20k
4.	Halwara (Ld)	C-DOT 512P	.5k
5.	Issru (LD)	C-DOT 512P	.5K

The remaining 50% waiting list is likely to be cleared during 1997-98.

Extension of Beat From Nagarcoil to Madurai

1260. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken in regard to extension of beat in MA 34 Section from Nagarcoil to Madurai (Moilsenice) by Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Madurai Post Master General has taken any view in the matter;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) MA 14 Section runs between Madurai and Tirunelveli. The matter of its extension from Tirunelveli to Nagarcoil is under examination in consultation with offices likely to be affected by the change.

Crimes Against Women in Maharashtra

1261. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra accounts for highest incidence of crimes against women after Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have issued instructions to State Government of Maharashtra to curb the growing incidence of crime against women in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Available data indicate that Maharashtra accounted for the highest incidence of Crime Against Women after Uttar Pradesh during 1994 and 1995. In 1993, however, Maharashtra had registered the highest incidence of such crimes in the country. Relevant information is given below:—

(Incidence of Crime Against Women)

Year	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh
1993	14,416	14,216
1994	13,568	15,914
1995	15,378	15,411

(c) to (e) The Central Government has, from time to time, been communicating with the State Governments stressing upon them the need for taking preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes against women. In his recent letter dated September 12, 1996 addressed to the Chief Ministers, the Home Minister has advised the States once again to consider swift and salutary punishment for those public servants found guilty of custodial violence against women; fixing time limit and monitoring of investigation of cases of murder, rape and torture of women; establishment of Women's Cells; intensive gender sensitisation programmes for police officers; appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers; and provision of Conselling Centres-cum-Shelter Homes for women in districts where disproportionate level of crimes agaisnt women in noticed. Most of the States, including Maharashtra, have responded positively to the communications of the Central Government.

Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways During Eighth Plan

1262. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund allotted to different States for construction and development of National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government of Orissa had sought financial assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned to Orissa in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Rs. 3078 crores have been allocated to various States for construction and development of National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the VIIIth Plan, a sum of Rs. 152.7 crores has been allocated to